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Identical letters dated 25 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the identical letters dated 27 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2018/269). In those letters, Qatar put forward a claim that a Bahraini fighter aircraft entered the airspace over Qatari territorial waters at 1820 hours on 25 March 2018. I should like to inform you that these allegations made by Qatar are devoid of truth. They amount to falsification of the facts and the spreading of misinformation, and constitute an unwarranted escalation by Qatar. The Kingdom of Bahrain hereby confirms that the military aircraft in question were flying in airspace belonging to the territory of the Kingdom of Bahrain, over the territorial waters and within the sovereign borders of Bahrain.

I should also like to confirm that the Kingdom of Bahrain is in compliance with international regulations and laws protecting air navigation. The international air traffic control centre in Bahrain that is charged with administering the region's airspace could not be more mindful of the safety of civil aviation in that airspace. That is in stark contrast to the behaviour engaged in over the past few months by the State of Qatar, whose combat aircraft have been flying in close proximity to civilian aircraft and intercepting them in flagrant violation of international civil aviation laws, thereby putting civilian aircraft and passengers at risk. Bahrain is scrupulous about implementing all relevant international conventions and laws, especially those emanating from the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the provisions of the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation and amendments thereto.

The State of Qatar must cease falsifying the facts and spreading misinformation. Such behaviour constitutes an unwarranted escalation that is deliberately designed to undermine security and stability and increase tensions in the region. Qatar would do better to strive for accuracy. These kinds of irresponsible actions and claims create a lack of credibility, run counter to the principles of good neighbourliness provided for in international instruments, and pose a threat to international peace and security.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jamal Fares **Alrowaiei**
Permanent Representative

18-08686 (E) 010618 010618

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